

7th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As the water levels caused by the recent flooding have gradually subsided, we are cautiously optimistic about resuming onsite education tomorrow, Friday 8th December. Our river risk assessment states that the barrier fence must be visible, and although it is still partially submerged we can now see the top of the fence along the perimeter of the school/river which signals an improvement in the situation. However, given the forecast for continued rain, we're closely monitoring the river's status. We'll reassess at 6am tomorrow morning and promptly inform you if there are any access issues to onsite education due to a rise in river levels.

If you don't receive a notification from us tomorrow morning, onsite education will proceed as planned. Nonetheless, it's important to note that while progress has been made, the river's flow remains fast, and there's still considerable surface water at the back of the school. Consequently, for safety reasons, the back of the school and forest area will be off-limits even if we resume onsite education.

We kindly request your cooperation in preparing your children for their return by discussing the importance of following these safety guidelines. Given the risks associated with high water levels, if any pupil is unable to comply with staff instructions, we may need to request parents or carers to collect their child to mitigate potential risks.

The high water levels have also attracted wildlife onto the school site, including what appears to be a very 'tame' swan. Many of the children are interested in this and want to feed the animal, which we understand. However, it is very important that they do not encourage the swan to be on site, this is not helpful for the swan or indeed any wild animal as they need to maintain a healthy distance from people to ensure their safety. In addition to this, the food that is being fed to the swan is not healthy for them. Please can you speak to your children regarding this? We have taken advice from the RSPB and they have asked us to pass this message on.

Your understanding and support during this challenging time are deeply appreciated. The safety of our pupils remains our utmost priority, and we're committed to ensuring a secure learning environment. Please feel free to reach out should you have any concerns or questions.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Antonia Jackson

**Headteacher**